

SPEECH OF DAN WEBSTER, OF VERMONT.

Delivered in the House of Commons of the General Assembly of North Carolina, January 30, 1847. On the Preamble to the Resolution appropriating the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of equipping and paying the expenses of the Regiment of Volunteers called for from North Carolina by the President of the United States.

MR. SPEAKER: I should be recreant to myself were I to retain my seat and submit, in silence, to the ungenerous attempts of the dominant party in this House to force a measure on the minority, which has been designedly prepared to embarrass the friends and supporters of the present Administration of the General Government. I am opposed to the adoption of the preamble to the resolution providing for the pay and equipment of the Volunteer Regiment required from this State for the Mexican war, because no public good is to be attained by the introduction of a subject calculated to excite party feeling, at a time when there should be one general rally of united interests and affections to preserve and maintain the honor and glory of our country. But, with respect to the subject of the preamble, as being untrue and unnecessary, I intend to give the resolution my support, and content myself with awaiting the arbitrament of a public opinion for the rectitude of my course. I frankly confess that I regret that the preamble to the resolution has been introduced at this deeply eventful crisis in the nation; and when I hear the party in the assembly here declare that they would not vote for the appropriation to pay the volunteers who are about to go to fight the battles of their country, were it not for the purpose of voting for the preamble declaring that the country has been involved in war with Mexico "by the act of the Executive," I cannot but regard such conduct as manifesting a settled purpose to substitute party for country; and I feel constrained by an impulse of humanity to raise my feeble voice against such reprehensible and unworthy motives. All must admit that this is not a time for the fell spirit of faction to deliberately rear its crest; and I did indeed hope that on a great and momentous question, in which our common country is involved, all sectional feelings of a party character would have been "in the deep bosom of the ocean buried." I expect to endeavor to show, before I am done, that the preamble now under consideration is untrue in fact, and that it is a slander upon the President of the United States. Every unprejudiced mind who will take leave of mere unwarranted assumptions and vagrant conjectures, must at once concede to the truth of the war, and war alone, was the only alternative for the nation, and that the constitutional head of the government has used all honorable means to avert its calamities.

I will first avail myself of the occasion of rectifying some of the crude and silly suggestions which emanated from the gentleman from Davidson (Mr. Wadsworth), and I do not refer to his despicable and clumsy assertions because I consider he uttered a single sentence worthy of any notice, but because he has had the assurance to intrude himself twice upon this House on the question now under consideration. And if he has attracted the least notice of any one by his vague and empty efforts, it may have been by the ignoble and egotistical nonsense which he has so prominently displayed in the inordinate desire which he seemed to entertain of wreaking his futile and contemptible malice on those who differ with him in opinion—and above all, for the inherent style of his elocution as well as for his distorted gestures and his extensible tropes. While the gentleman was indulging his inflated fancy by such wanton and gratuitous carping, I was induced to believe that all who heard him might well exclaim, in the language of the Statist,

"Such labor'd nothing, in so strange a style,
Amaz'd the unlearn'd, and made 't learned smile;
I will not ascribe to the gentleman from Davidson a willful and corrupt misrepresentation of any subject, if he knew it; but as he has had the bold-faced temerity to endeavor to assail and traduce the Democratic party for the war in which we are now engaged, I hope to regret that he thinks proper to trouble the House with his idle and empty efforts, and potent efforts to laud the Whig party. He will be charitable enough to so far condescend as to notice some of their vices and imperfections. But I believe that the remark of Fielding has obtained universal acceptance that "a man generally talks better when he knows what he is talking about," and I thought he might have been benefited by being reminded of the distich of Burns.

"Oh! was some power the gift of his,
To see ourselves as others see us."
The gentleman from Davidson betrayed such an utter and inexcusable ignorance of the origin and history of the present Whig party, that I hope the House will indulge me for a few moments whilst I show that they are mainly indebted to one James Watson Webb for their new cognomen of Whig. It was not until General Jackson had defeated the whole hosts of Bank minions and Bank dependants, that a disappointed and miserable faction became so desperate as to introduce the once venerated name of Whig. It was the same reckless and unprincipled Webb who baptised the cohorts of that great Clay-Bank couer with the popular name of Whig for fifty thousand dollars purchase money, in order to secure a triumph over the friends of equal rights. Sir, the time was when the Whig party carried with it every high and patriotic sentiment; it was a name consecrated by the glorious deeds of our gallant ancestors, and rendered sacred by the brave and patriotic spirits of the Revolution; but it has now been most shamefully perverted from its pristine purity by such depraved wretches as James Watson Webb, who has frequently used his character and recovered the enormous amount of prize money damages.

This was the notorious individual who, when foremost in appropriating to the enemies of popular government a name which had not before been recognised by them—a name rendered glorious by the "burning and shining lights" of those who so bravely contended for equal liberty and equal rights against the most formidable tyrants of the day of peril and disaster, and who vowed upon the altar of their country unceasing hostility to every form of tyranny over the mind of man. But the times have changed; and that once virtuous name which had been enrolled on the lists of fame has been rudely and uncivilly desecrated by such mercenary hangers as James Watson Webb, who has frequently used his character and recovered the enormous amount of prize money damages.

On the first day of July, 1813, Daniel Webster, then a member of the House of Representatives in the Congress of the United States, voted against the bill to raise money to carry on the war. On the first day of January, 1814, when the government was straining every effort to organize a national defense, he voted against the bill to raise money for the encouragement of enlistment. On the seventh of the same month, he voted against an appropriation to defray the expenses of the navy, who were gallantly fighting their country's battles. On the same day, he voted against a bill to recruit the army of the United States. On the tenth of the same month, he voted against a proposition to detect and punish traitors and spies. On the twenty-second, he voted against the bill to enlist troops for the war. On the first and seventeenth days of December, 1814, he voted against a "bill to provide additional revenues for defraying the expenses of the government, and maintaining the public credit." On the second of December, 1814, he voted against a bill to raise a revenue for the government and maintain the public credit. On the fifth, against the "bill for filling the ranks of the army." On the tenth, against a call on the States for militia to defend the frontiers. On the nineteenth of December, 1818, he voted against the bill to pay the expenses of the war, and to rebuild the Capitol which the British had destroyed by fire.

In 1836, when war with France was anticipated, it was proposed to confide the means of our defense to President Jackson, conditionally. Mr. Webster declared that he "would not vote for an appropriation for the purpose of raising a new army, but for the purpose of maintaining the old one." He declared in the House of Representatives, that Mr. Webster could take but one more Tory step, and that was to "join the enemy."

I have now sufficiently proved, from the recorded acts of the gentleman from Davidson, that he is an actor on the political arena, and open to whatever, censures his conduct may deserve. I speak of Daniel Webster—a man

who has on almost every great national question involving the rights and liberties of his country, invariably taken sides with the enemy! I refer to his whole course in the national legislature as evidence of what I say; and I am bound to confess that the record is black with treason! If any evidence was wanting to substantiate the fact, I would refer to the fact that he was the only member of the House of Representatives who voted in uniform and persevering efforts against the equal rights of all classes of the people, and to his whole public life, which shows beyond all doubt that he has uniformly been the inveterate enemy of republican principles, and the unwavering advocate and supporter of a policy tending to convert the government into a mere engine of political corruption. I allude to Mr. Webster on this occasion, because he is recognized as one of the great leaders of the Whig party in calumniating President Polk in relation to the war. The infamous course of the "god-like," as he has called, in held up by the Whig leaders as worthy of imitation, in his shameful and despicable efforts to embarrass his own government, and to cripple the energies of his country in the present emergency, when all hands should be armed and all hearts nerved for the conflict. He now stands forth as the giant of his party in denouncing the present Administration with all the furious and opprobrious epithets that a prolific imagination can invent. Look at his speech not long since made in Boston, and the one more recently delivered in Philadelphia. In his Boston speech he declared that the war in which the country is now engaged was not voted for by any body—that the President made it—and at the same time declaring that the war grew out of the determination of Mexico not to acquiesce in the annexation of Texas. He declared in the same speech that the war was a "presidential war," and as it was not voted for by any body it was "an impeachable offence" on the part of the President. It was then and there he said, "The natural justice of a war, it is perhaps not an American habit to consider; but it is an American habit to count the cost." This is the same miserable compliment he paid his countrymen in the war of 1812, when he refused to assist in furnishing supplies to prosecute the war. It is a slander upon the patriotism and valor of the American people to assert that they are more accustomed to count the cost than the natural justice of the contest!

The present war is not the first that this same Mr. Webster has so violently opposed; for he exerted himself against the grant of men and money to carry on the English, and denominated it as "Mr. Madison's war," and the inference then drawn by the federalists was, that "as Mr. Madison had made the war he should be left to fight it out." In his speech at Brentwood, in 1812, he threatened to impeach President Madison for the war with England. I now refer to the treasonable conduct of Daniel Webster during the last war with the British, and to the fact that he was "tried men's souls"—because anything which comes from him is taken as the Whig text book, as the true record of Whig policy, and as the grand Shiloh of their faith. The calamities of the war did not disturb his placidity; and when a ruthless soldiery had actually invaded our soil and were ravaging our country and sacking and burning our towns and villages, no sense of national danger or dishonor, no sympathy with private suffering could move him to one word, much less to a single act, in behalf of his struggling country! All the savage atrocities perpetrated on the weak, the innocent, the lovely, the aged, and even on the dying, by the savage and barbarous British forces, could call forth from him only the deriding and caustic levity which he manifested in the memorable speech in which he rejoiced over the defeat and massacre of the American troops, and with the malignant exultation of a fiend, exclaimed, "This is not the entertainment to which we were invited."

He was one of the federal leaders in New England who sought to paralyze the arm of his own country in her struggle for freedom, and he effected this by his vile and treasonable efforts to induce the British to invade our shores. The miserable pretext could not then be set up by the federalists that it was a war of "conquest" on a foreign soil. The ignominious cruelties inflicted on our countrymen had been discussed, and an appeal to arms had been decided upon. Here was a predicament in which no patriot could hesitate to take the side of the brave and patriotic soldiers who were fighting for the liberation of our kidnapped countrymen, and for the plundered property of our merchants, and for our maritime rights as an independent nation.

Mr. Webster denied the justice of the last war, though the English had captured thirteen hundred of our merchant vessels, nearly all of which he denied its justice, though the British had captured six thousand of our vessels, and he had been impressed, not a single one of whom they afterwards shot down at Dartmouth like wild beasts! He denied the justice of the war with England, though our very coasts and harbors had been again and again violated by the bloody aggressions of a British soldiery, and the sufferings and distress of our countrymen were still vibrating on the ear, when loads of them were returning to our shores wounded and dying, and when the Chesapeake had been attacked within our own limits! It was no Texas question then that involved the country in war, as is now shamefully proclaimed to be the cause of the present war, but the fact that the Whig party was unprincipledly denouncing every ingrate and unprincipled demagogue of the day who was opposed to it. And even Daniel Webster deemed his country's quarrel wrong, his highest earthly obligation bound him to protect her from foreign conquest and to save her people from murder and rapine. But how did he acquit himself in this most solemn of human obligations? Let the records of his country answer!

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that he has exulted at the defeat of the American arms and the murderous inroads of the savages. I have thought proper to notice some few of the public acts of Mr. Webster, because his long and thorough opposition to the conservative doctrines of the Republican party, and his advocacy of the loose and wild construction of the Federal Constitution, may be regarded as the best evidence of the present Whig party. This Hartford Convention Federalist is one of their acknowledged leaders in opposing the Mexican war.

I have now very briefly and faintly gleaned from the history of the times a sketch of the anti-American principles of Daniel Webster and James Watson Webb, who are both recognized as patterns of whiggery; and I would not again recur to the remarks of the capacious and schismatic gentleman from Davidson lest his wanton fatuity should again induce him to avail himself of the occasion of lecturing the House to seriously meditate on the factitious morality of the moral poet.

"A life of the poet, a life of the poet,
From Marlborough's eyes the tears of dole flow,
And swift as lightning, the poet's soul
Is in the land of the living and the free."

I was a little surprised at the egotistical and self-opinionated character of the remarks submitted by the gentleman from Northampton, (Mr. Barnes), and the gentleman from Chovan, (Mr. Paine), who exemplified their extreme anxiety to hold the present Administration responsible for the war by assailing it in the most extravagant manner, and by using justifiable terms; but I hope I may be permitted to say to the vaunting gentlemen that their miserable attempts to vent their inveterate and unmitigated malignity against the President of the United States will but recoil with tenfold aggravation on their own heads. Let me say to these gentlemen that—

"Fell error's tooth does never rankle more
Than when it bites but lieth not the sore."

Sir, the commendable fidelity and ability with which JAMES K. POLK has discharged the high and responsible duties of his station, challenges the admiration of every true-hearted patriot in the land, and is well calculated to raise in the hearts of his countrymen a profound veneration for his person, and a confidence in his abilities. The undaunted firmness which has characterized his whole public course, his uniform decision and energy with which he has conducted himself in the management of our domestic and foreign affairs, during one of the most difficult and dangerous periods that has ever yet occurred in our country's history, have caused his name to be remembered with reverence and handed down to posterity as the friend and benefactor of his country. His name will be held in grateful remembrance by his countrymen when those who would maliciously tarnish his fair fame should be thought of only as infamy is remembered.

"Till the future dates
Forget the past, his fate and name shall be
An echo and a light unto eternity."
(To be concluded next week.)

FROM NEW MEXICO.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY IN NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fe, N. M., Feb. 15, 1847.

SIR: I have the honor to submit to you a short account of the recent revolution in this Territory, and a detailed report of the operations of the forces under my command, consequent upon the rebellion.

About the 15th of December last I received information of an attempt to excite the people of this Territory against the American government. This rebellion was headed by Thomas Ortiz and Diego Archuleta. An officer, formerly in the Mexican service, was seized, and on his person was found a list of the names of the soldiers in the vicinity of Santa Fe. Many other persons, supposed to be implicated, were arrested, and a full investigation proved that many of the most influential persons in the northern part of this Territory were engaged in this rebellion. All attempts to arrest Ortiz and Archuleta proved unsuccessful, and these rebels have, without doubt, escaped to the south of the Rio Grande.

After the arrest above mentioned and the flight of Ortiz and Archuleta, the rebellion appeared to be suppressed; but this appearance was deceptive.

On the 14th of January, Gov. Bent left this city for Taos. On the 19th of the same month, this valuable officer, together with five other persons, were seized by the rebels, and taken to the mountains, where they were murdered at the Arroyo Honda, and two others on the Colorado. The names of the unfortunate persons thus brutally butchered are as follows:

At Don Fernando de Taos—Chas. Bent, Governor; Samuel Lee, sheriff; James W. Leal, circuit attorney; Cornelio Virgil, (a Mexican) prefect; Narcisus Baubien, (a Mexican) circuit judge; Parbleau Harvimeah, (a Mexican).

At the Arroyo Honda—Simon Turley, Albert Turbul, William Hatfield, Louis Tolpue, Peter Robert, Joseph Marshall, Wm. Austin, At the Rio Colorado—Mark Head, William Harwood.

It appeared to be the object of the insurgents to put to death every American and every Mexican who had accepted office under the Mexican government.

News of these events reached me on the 20th of January, and letters from the rebels, calling on me to join them, were received. I at once determined to leave this city for aid, were intercepted. It was now ascertained that the enemy was approaching this city, and that their force was continually being increased by the inhabitants of the towns along their line of march.

In order to prevent the enemy from receiving any further reinforcements in that manner, I determined to make a stand as possible. Supposing that the detachment of the necessary troops would weaken the garrison of Santa Fe too much, I immediately ordered up from Albuquerque Maj. Edmonson, 2d regiment Missouri mounted volunteers, and Capt. Burghwin, with their respective commands, directing Capt. Burghwin to leave one company of dragoons at this post, and to join me with the remainder of his command. Maj. Edmonson was directed to remain in Santa Fe.

Captain Giddings, company A, 2d regiment Missouri mounted volunteers, was also ordered to join me with his company, upon the arrival of Capt. Burghwin. Leaving Lieutenant Colonel Willock in command of this post, on the 23d of January, I started on my march, accompanied by companies D, Captain McMillin, K, Captain Williams, L, Captain Slack, M, Captain Halley, and N, Captain Barber, of the 2d regiment Missouri mounted volunteers, Captain Angney's battalion of infantry, and a company of Santa Fe volunteers, commanded by Captain St. Vrain. I also took with me four mountain howitzers, which I placed under the command of Lieut. A. B. Dyer, of the ordinance. My whole force composed three hundred and fifty-three, rank and file, and, with the exception of Captain St. Vrain's company, were all dismounted. On the march Captain Williams was taken sick, and the command of Company K devolved upon Lieut. B. F. White. On the 24th of January, at half-past 1, p. m., we advanced (Capt. St. Vrain's company) discovered the enemy in considerable force near the town of Canada, their position at that time being in the valley bordering the Rio del Norte. Preparations were immediately made by me to attack them; and it became necessary for the troops to march more rapidly than the ammunition and provision wagons could travel, in order to prevent the escape of the enemy, or to frustrate their attempts to occupy commanding positions. I entered the valley, I discovered them beyond the creek on which the town is situated, and in full possession of the heights commanding the road to Canada, and of three strong houses at the bases of the hills. My line of battle was immediately formed—the artillery consisting of four 6-pounder mountain howitzers, being thrown forward to the left flank and beyond the creek, the dismounted men

occupying a position where they would be, in some degree, protected by the high bluff bank of the stream from the fire of the enemy, until the wagon train could be brought up. The artillery opened on the houses occupied by the enemy, and on the more elevated position, which alone the guns could be brought to bear, the right flank, and from which a warm fire was being poured on us. This was done in the most gallant manner. A charge was then ordered to be made upon all the points occupied by the enemy in any force. Capt. Angney, with his command, supported by Lieut. White's company, charged upon one hill, while Capt. St. Vrain's company, supported by Capt. McMillin, cut off the enemy, when in retreat.

The artillery, supported by Capt. McMillin, Barber, and Slack, with their respective companies, at the same time took possession of some houses (enclosed by a strong corral densely wooded with fruit trees, from which a brisk fire was kept up by the enemy), and of the heights beyond them. Capt. Halley's company was ordered to support Capt. Angney in the assault on the heights, and they were flying in every direction. The nature of the ground rendered pursuit hopeless; and it being near night, I ordered the troops to take up quarters in the town. The number of the enemy was about fifteen hundred. Lieutenant Irvine was wounded. In the charge my loss was two killed and six wounded. Of the killed, one was a teamster, who volunteered under Capt. Angney's company. The loss of the enemy was thirty-six killed; wounded not ascertained. The next morning the enemy showed themselves in some force (I think not less than four hundred) on the distant heights. Leaving a strong guard in the town, I marched in pursuit of them; but they were so shy, and so well concealed, that it was impossible to get near them. I returned to town.

While at Canada, a number of the horses belonging to Capt. Slack's company were brought by Lieut. Holcomb.

On the 27th, I advanced up the Rio del Norte as far as Luceros, where, early on the 28th, I was joined by Captain Burghwin, commanding the 2d regiment Missouri mounted volunteers, and by Lieut. Boon, commanding the 2d regiment Missouri mounted volunteers, accompanied by Capt. Burghwin in the corral; but the attempt on the church door proved fruitless, and they were compelled to retire behind the wall. In the meantime small holes had been cut into the western wall, and shells were thrown in by hand, doing good execution. The 6-pounder was now brought around by Lieut. Wilson, who at the distance of two hundred yards, poured a heavy fire of grape into the town. The enemy during all this time kept up a destructive fire upon our troops. About half-past three o'clock the 6-pounder was run up within sixty yards of the church, and after ten rounds—one of the holes which had been cut with the axes was widened into a practicable breach. The gun was now run up within ten yards of the wall—a shell was thrown in—three rounds of grape were poured into the breach. The storming party—among whom were Lieut. Dyer of the ordinance, and Lieut. Wilson and Taylor, 1st dragoons, entered and took possession of the church without opposition. The interior was filled with dense smoke, but for which circumstance our storming party would have suffered great loss. A few of the enemy were seen in the gallery where an open door admitted the air, but they retired without firing a gun. The troops left to support the battery on the north were now ordered to charge on that side. The enemy abandoned the western part of the town. Many of the rebels fled to the large houses on the east, while others endeavored to escape toward the mountains. These latter were pursued by the mounted men under Capt. Slack and St. Vrain, who killed fifty-one of them, only two or three men escaping. It was now night, and our troops were quietly quartered in the houses which the enemy had abandoned. On the next morning the enemy sued for peace, and on the following day they had sustained a severe loss. I granted their supplication, on the condition that they should deliver up to me Tomas—one of their principal men, who had instigated and been actively engaged in the murder of governor Bent and others. The number of the enemy at the battle of Pueblo de Taos was between six and seven hundred. Of these about one hundred and fifty were killed—wounded not known.

The rapid slopes of the mountains rendered the enemy's position very strong, and their strength was increased by the dense masses of cedar and large fragments of rock which everywhere offered them shelter. The action was commenced by Capt. St. Vrain, who, dismounting his men, ascended the mountain to the left, doing much execution. Flanking parties were thrown out on either side, commanded by Lieut. White, 2d regiment Missouri mounted volunteers, and by Lieut. McMillin and Taylor, 1st dragoons. These parties ascended the hills rapidly, and the enemy soon began to retire in the direction of Embudo, bounding along the steep and rugged sides of the mountains with a speed that defied pursuit. The firing at the pass of Embudo had been heard by La Joya, and Captain Burghwin, twenty-four miles in the distance, was immediately dispatched thither. He now arrived and rendered excellent service by relieving Lieut. White, whose men were much fatigued. Lieut. McMillin and Taylor were also recalled; and Lieutenant Ingalls was directed to lead a flanking party on the right slope, while Capt. Slack performed the same duty on the left. The enemy having by this time retreated beyond our reach, Capt. Burghwin marched through the defile, and debouching into the open valley in which Embudo was situated, recalled the flanking parties, and entered that town without opposition, several persons meeting him with a white flag.

Our loss in this action was one man killed, and one severely wounded. The loss of the enemy was seven killed and forty-five wounded. Capt. St. Vrain's company. The loss of the enemy was about twenty killed and sixty wounded.

This ended the battle of the pass of Embudo. On the 30th, Capt. Burghwin marched to Trampas, where he was directed to await the arrival of the main body, which on account of the artillery and baggage, was unable to pursue a more southern route. On the 31st I reached Trampas; and being joined by Capt. Burghwin, marched on to Chamisal with the whole command. On the 1st of February we reached the summit of the Taos mountain, which was covered with snow to the depth of two feet; and on the 2d, quartered at a small place called Chamisal, in the valley of Taos. The marches of the 3d and 4th were through deep snow. Many of the men were frost-bitten, and all were very much fatigued with the exertions necessary to travel over unbroken roads, being marched in front of the artillery and wagons, in order to break a road through the snow. The consequence being left, and the men being so fatigued, and the weather so cold, they bore these hardships, and could not be excelled by the most veteran soldiers. On the 3d, I marched through Don Fernando de Taos, and finding that the enemy had fortified themselves in the Pueblo de Taos, proceeded to that place. I found it a place of great strength, being surrounded by adobe walls and strong pickets. Within the enclosure and near the northern and southern walls, arose two large buildings of irregular pyramidal form to the height of seven or eight stories. Each of these buildings was capable of sheltering five or six hundred men. Beside these, there were many smaller buildings, and the large church of the town was situated in the northwestern angle, a small square being left between it and the outer wall. The exterior wall and all the enclosed buildings were pierced for rifles. The town was admirably calculated for defence, every part of the exterior walls and pickets being flanked by some projecting building, as will be seen from the enclosed drawing.

After having reconnoitred the town, I selected the western flank of the church as the point of attack; and about 3 o'clock, p. m., Lieut. Dyer, with his company, and Lieut. Wilson, at the distance of about 350 yards, a fire was kept up by the 6-pounder and the howitzers for about two hours and a half, when, as the ammunition wagon had not yet come up, and the troops were suffering from cold and fatigue, I returned to Don Fernando. Early on the morning of the 4th, I again advanced upon Pueblo de Taos, and the 2d regiment Missouri mounted volunteers, being thrown forward to the western flank of the church, I ordered the mounted men under Captains St. Vrain and Slack to take a position on the opposite side of the town, whence they might attempt to escape toward the mountains, or in the direction of Don Fernando. The residue of the troops took ground about 300 yards from the northern wall. Here, too, Lieut. Dyer established himself with the 6-pounder and two howitzers, while Lieut. Hassandabel, of Maj. Clark's battalion light artillery, remained with Capt. Burghwin, in command of the howitzers. By this arrangement a cross fire was obtained, sweeping the front and eastern flank of the church.

All these arrangements having been made, the batteries opened upon the town at nine o'clock, a. m. At eleven o'clock, finding it impossible to breach the walls of the church with the 6-pounder and howitzers, I determined to storm that building. At a signal, Capt. Burghwin, (1st regiment U. S. Dragoons), and that of Capt. McMillin, (of the volunteers), charged the western flank of the church, while Capt. Angney, infantry battalion, and Capt. Barber, and Lieut. Boon, 2d regiment Missouri mounted volunteers, charged the northern wall. As soon as the troops above mentioned had established themselves under the western wall of the church, axes were used in the attempt to breach it, and a temporary ladder having been made, the roof was fired. About this time Capt. Burghwin, at the head of a small party left the cover afforded by the flank of the church, and penetrated into the corral in front of that building, endeavoring to force the door. In this exposed situation, Capt. Burghwin received a severe wound which deprived him of his valuable services, and of which he died on the 7th inst. Lieutenant McMillin, 1st U. S. Dragoons, and Royall and Lackland, 2d regiment mounted volunteers, accompanied Capt. Burghwin into the corral; but the attempt on the church door proved fruitless, and they were compelled to retire behind the wall. In the meantime small holes had been cut into the western wall, and shells were thrown in by hand, doing good execution. The 6-pounder was now brought around by Lieut. Wilson, who at the distance of two hundred yards, poured a heavy fire of grape into the town. The enemy during all this time kept up a destructive fire upon our troops. About half-past three o'clock the 6-pounder was run up within sixty yards of the church, and after ten rounds—one of the holes which had been cut with the axes was widened into a practicable breach. The gun was now run up within ten yards of the wall—a shell was thrown in—three rounds of grape were poured into the breach. The storming party—among whom were Lieut. Dyer of the ordinance, and Lieut. Wilson and Taylor, 1st dragoons, entered and took possession of the church without opposition. The interior was filled with dense smoke, but for which circumstance our storming party would have suffered great loss. A few of the enemy were seen in the gallery where an open door admitted the air, but they retired without firing a gun. The troops left to support the battery on the north were now ordered to charge on that side. The enemy abandoned the western part of the town. Many of the rebels fled to the large houses on the east, while others endeavored to escape toward the mountains. These latter were pursued by the mounted men under Capt. Slack and St. Vrain, who killed fifty-one of them, only two or three men escaping. It was now night, and our troops were quietly quartered in the houses which the enemy had abandoned. On the next morning the enemy sued for peace, and on the following day they had sustained a severe loss. I granted their supplication, on the condition that they should deliver up to me Tomas—one of their principal men, who had instigated and been actively engaged in the murder of governor Bent and others. The number of the enemy at the battle of Pueblo de Taos was between six and seven hundred. Of these about one hundred and fifty were killed—wounded not known.

The rapid slopes of the mountains rendered the enemy's position very strong, and their strength was increased by the dense masses of cedar and large fragments of rock which everywhere offered them shelter. The action was commenced by Capt. St. Vrain, who, dismounting his men, ascended the mountain to the left, doing much execution. Flanking parties were thrown out on either side, commanded by Lieut. White, 2d regiment Missouri mounted volunteers, and by Lieut. McMillin and Taylor, 1st dragoons. These parties ascended the hills rapidly, and the enemy soon began to retire in the direction of Embudo, bounding along the steep and rugged sides of the mountains with a speed that defied pursuit. The firing at the pass of Embudo had been heard by La Joya, and Captain Burghwin, twenty-four miles in the distance, was immediately dispatched thither. He now arrived and rendered excellent service by relieving Lieut. White, whose men were much fatigued. Lieut. McMillin and Taylor were also recalled; and Lieutenant Ingalls was directed to lead a flanking party on the right slope, while Capt. Slack performed the same duty on the left. The enemy having by this time retreated beyond our reach, Capt. Burghwin marched through the defile, and debouching into the open valley in which Embudo was situated, recalled the flanking parties, and entered that town without opposition, several persons meeting him with a white flag.

Our loss in this action was one man killed, and one severely wounded. The loss of the enemy was seven killed and forty-five wounded. Capt. St. Vrain's company. The loss of the enemy was about twenty killed and sixty wounded.

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